

*magna* of spectroscopic explorations, we may surely feel convinced that after-times will neither fail to be gratified with results of scientific consequence, nor find it easily possible to overlook the great accessions made by the late Prof. Piazzi Smyth to spectroscopic science, by his boldly-planned recourses to, and ingeniously contrived employments of, great optical power and very high dispersions.

A. S. HERSCHEL.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

OXFORD.—At a meeting of the Junior Scientific Club, held on Friday, May 18, Dr. Mann gave a *résumé* of the history of the nerve cell from Malpighi's and Leeuwenhoek's time up to the present. He showed the advance due to the introduction of new methods, viz. chromic acid by Hannover, Golgi's and Ehrlich's methods, and the Picro-corrosive sublimate method of the author. Ehrenburg in 1833 discovered the nerve-cell, Beale in 1863 the nerve-fibril, Flammig and Nissl the basophil substance of the cell, which, as Mann was the first to show, becomes used up during functional activity. Hohnagren's observations on material fixed by Mann's methods had demonstrated the universal occurrence of intracellular lymph channels in nerve-cells. Finally it was suggested that the basophil substance (Nissl's bodies) should rather be regarded as the homologues of Zymogen granules than as reserve material in the strict sense of the word.—Mr. A. D. Darbishire (Balliol) showed a number of living crustaceæ by microscopic projection on to a transparent screen.

CAMBRIDGE.—The honorary degrees in law, science, and letters, were conferred in presence of a large and brilliant assemblage on June 12. Prof. Langley was unable to arrive from America in time to be present, but the American Ambassador, Lord Rosse, Sir Benjamin Baker, Sir Walter Buller and Prof. Poincaré attended, and received a cordial welcome. The following are the speeches delivered by the Public Orator, Dr. Sandys, in presenting to the Vice-Chancellor the under-mentioned recipients of honorary degrees for distinction in science :—

THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF ROSSE, LL.D.

Assurgit proximus Universitatis Dubliniensis Cancellarius, cuius pater munere eodem ornatus atque etiam Regiæ Societati præpositus, Hiberniâ in mediâ instrumentum ingens stellis observandis olim construxit; cuius de fratre autem, navis celerimæ inventore sollertissimo, omnibus notum est "quo turbine torqueat" undas. Ipse famam inter peritos adeptus est, non modo de lunæ calore subtilius inquirendo, sed etiam stellarum nebulis remotissimis (ut Aristophanis a Nubibus aliquantum mutuetur) ὄμματι τηλεκόπῳ observandis. Habetis exemplar domus præclaræ scientiarum amore conspicuæ, cuius caput dignitatis Academicæ heres dignissimus exstitit. Qui abhinc annos octo Universitatis suæ inter ferias sæculares tot honores in alios contulit, hodie fortasse nobis ignoscet, quod honos ipsi olim debitus præcepto illi Horatiano nimium paruisse visus est :—"nonum prematur in annum."

SIR BENJAMIN BAKER, Sc.D.

Quantum miratus esset historiarum scriptor, Gaius Cornelius Tacitus, si providere potuisset fore aliquando, ut Caledoniæ fretum, Bodotriæ nomine sibi notum, duobus deinceps pontibus immensis iungeretur! Quantum miratus esset historiae pater ipse, Herodotus, si audivisset fore aliquando, ut vir quidam, ab insulis Britannicis sibi prorsus ignotis oriundus, fluminis Nili aquas redundantes duplici mole et aggere magno coerceret et Aegypti regioni immensæ irrigandæ conservaret! Operis utriusque magni conditore magnum hodie præsentem contemplantur, qui non pacis tantum triumphis contentus, velut alter Archimedes, etiam Martis tormentorum inventor et machinator admirabilis exstitit. Atqui ne Martis quidem inter opera pacis causam revera deseruit; etenim scriptoris antiqui de re militari monitum non ignotum est :—"qui desiderat pacem, præparet bellum."

SIR WALTER LAWRY BULLER, Sc.D.

Coloniæ nostræ remotissimæ, Novæ Zealandiæ, inter decora conspicua numeratus, adest hodie vir regionis illius indigenarum linguæ imprimis peritus, cui, propter merita eius egregia, gratiæ sæpenumero publice sunt actæ. Adest vir qui etiam regionis illius avibus summâ curâ describendis atque arte eximiâ depingendis opus magnum dedicavit. Quantum autem liberalitati eius etiam nostra Academia debeat, Musei

nostrî parietes, avium et animalium aut prorsus aut prope extinctorum exemplis ornati, satis clare loquuntur. Ergo quem ipsa Regina, quem et Gallia et Germania et Italia honoribus cumulaverunt, eundem etiam nosmet ipsi, tot munerum non immemores, laudis nostræ diademate decoramus.

M. HENRI POINCARÉ, Sc.D.

Sequitur scientiarum Academiæ Gallicæ socius illustris, scientiæ mechanicæ caelestis inter Parisienses professor insignis, societatis Regiæ Londinensis inter socios externos olim numeratus, astronomorum denique a societate Regia numismate aureo nuper donatus. Quantam laudem meritiæ sunt investigationes illæ subtilissimæ, de aestuum maritimorum natura universa, de molium liquidarum sese rotantium æquilibrio, de planetarum denique et satellitum cursu vario, ad exitum felicem ab hoc viro perductæ! Studiorum mathematicorum in utrâque provinciâ, et analyticâ et physicâ, propter scientiæ suæ prope infinitam varietatem inter principes numeratus, quam egregie nuper ostendit quantum provinciæ illæ vicinæ invicem inter sese deberent! Quam pulchre studiorum suorum voluptatem cum artis musicæ et artis pingendi voluptate comparavit! Quam ingenue mathematicam physicam confitetur novam quandam linguam desiderare; linguam cotidianam nimis exilem, nimis ambiguam esse, quam ut aliquid tam delicatum, tam subtile, tam varium, possit exprimere. Et nos idem hodie libenter confitemur: viro tali pro meritis eius tam variis laudando lingua nostra vix sufficit. "Conamur tenues grandia."

THE Knightsbridge Professorship, vacant by the resignation of Dr. Sidgwick, will be filled up on Saturday, June 30. Candidates are required to send their names to the Vice-Chancellor by June 25.

Mr. G. F. C. Searle has been appointed a university lecturer in experimental physics; and Dr. G. H. F. Nuttall, university lecturer in bacteriology and preventive medicine.

The first award of the Raymond Horton-Smith Prize has been made to Mr. A. B. Green, for his M.D. thesis on amyloid disease.

Mr. W. A. Macfarlane-Grieve, M.A., Oxford and Cambridge, of Impington Park, has offered to the University a farm of about 145 acres near Cambridge, free of rent till Michaelmas 1909, for the purposes of the Department of Agriculture. This handsome offer has been gratefully accepted on behalf of the Board of Agricultural Studies, to whom the management of the experimental farm is assigned.

The *University Reporter* for June 12 contains an interesting report on Mr. W. W. Skeat's exploring expedition to the Malay provinces of Lower Siam.

The Right Hon. A. J. Balfour, M.P., will deliver the inaugural address to the students of the Vacation Courses, arranged by the University Extension Syndicate, at 12 noon on Thursday, August 2.

The Arnold Gerstenberg Studentship in moral philosophy for graduates in natural science has been awarded to Mr. T. J. Jehu, of St. John's College, who holds a Heriot Fellowship in geology from the University of Edinburgh.

The Mathematical Tripos list is unusually short this year. The sixteen wranglers are headed by Mr. J. E. Wright of Trinity, Mr. A. C. W. Aldis of Trinity Hall being second wrangler. An Indian student, Mr. Balak Ram of St. John's is fourth; and Miss W. M. Hudson of Newnham College, sister of the senior wrangler of 1898, is bracketed eighth wrangler. Miss E. Greene, also of Newnham, is equal to tenth. St. John's claims five of the wranglers, Trinity four, Clare two.

In Part II., the bracketed senior wranglers of last year, Mr. Birtwistle of Pembroke, and Mr. Paranjpye of St. John's, are placed with two others in the first division of the first class.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN, Chancellor of Birmingham University, has received a letter from Mr. W. H. Foster, Apley Park, Bridgnorth, offering a donation of 2000*l.* towards the endowment fund.

MR. J. G. CLARK, whose death is announced from Worcester, Massachusetts, was a generous promoter of the interests of education in the United States. By his efforts the Clark University at Worcester, Mass., was founded "to increase human knowledge and transmit the perfect culture of one generation to the ablest youth of the next; to afford the highest education and opportunity for research." He gave a close study to the